

# INTER NOS

RNI. No. KARBIL/2007/20997

Regn. No. MNG/991/2022-24

Vol. 17

No. 4

April 2023

*HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU DEAR BISHOP*



**27 April 2023**



**Most Rev. Dr Peter Paul Saldanha**  
Bishop of Mangalore

Praise the day when you were born  
Thank the Lord for this great morn;  
God chose you from the rest of the flock  
And guide all safely to the Rock,

The love of God will guide you through  
The trials, travail that you woo;  
The harvest work is tough to do  
But God will find more, when time's due!

You have done well so far but still  
More things will happen by God's Will;  
You have a flock to tend night and day;  
You have to tell what is God's Say;

Your work can't be extolled by word  
We lift you and your ministry to the Lord;  
On earth and in heaven will be your reward;  
This is to you our Birthday Card!

**Good wishes and prayers from Priests, Religious  
and Lay Faithful of Mangalore Diocese**

## **BISHOP'S PROGRAMME FOR APRIL 2023**

- |       |       |      |  |
|-------|-------|------|--|
| 2     | 07.45 | a.m. | Palm Sunday, Cathedral                             |
| 5     | 04.00 | p.m. | CODP Board of Directors Meeting,<br>Bishop's House |
| 6     | 06.00 | p.m. | The Lord's Supper, Cathedral                       |
| 8     | 07.15 | p.m. | Easter Celebration, Cathedral                      |
| 13    | 09.30 | a.m. | Ordination at Loretto                              |
| 19    | 03.00 | p.m. | Ordination at Kayyar                               |
| 20    | 03.00 | p.m. | Ordination at Cathedral                            |
| 21    | 09.30 | a.m. | Final Vows, Rosa Mystica, Gurpur                   |
| 22    | 09.30 | a.m. | Final Vows, Valencia Church                        |
| 23    | 10.00 | a.m. | Benefactors' Day, St Antony's Ashram               |
| 25    | 04.30 | p.m. | Community Day Celebration at Thokur                |
| 26    | 04.30 | p.m. | Centenary Day Celebration, SRA,<br>Vamanjoor       |
| 29    | 10.00 | a.m. | Graduation, Homoeopathy, FMCI                      |
| 29-30 |       |      | Pastoral Visit, Paldane                            |

### **Bishop Meets in the Forenoon:**

Diocesan Clergy, 18; Religious Priests and Sisters, 27;  
Lay Faithful, 28.

## **BISHOP'S MESSAGE FOR APRIL 2023**

**Papal Intention for April:** Pope Francis invites the whole Church to pray so that we develop a culture of peace and non-violence, by decreasing the use of weapons by States and Citizens. Already the Russia-Ukraine war has gone beyond a year, and the civilians are deeply affected by this conflict. We pray that the war may cease and peace prevail. Since the war began on 24 February 2022, the Pope has made countless appeals for peace and for an end to the violence, which has claimed countless lives and injured scores of other people. He appeals to those in authority over nations to make concrete efforts to end the conflict, to reach a ceasefire, and to start peace negotiations. According to the Pope, "whatever is built on rubble can never be a true victory". The

Pope reminds us: “Let us not forget, in these days, troubled Ukraine, who is suffering so much”.

**Scarcity of Water and its Conservation:** Saint Francis of Assisi said: “Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister water, who is very useful and humble and precious and chaste”. In these simple words, we feel the beauty of creation and the awareness of the challenges involved in caring for it. Even before the onset of summer, water has become scarce in many places, and people experience a lack of this primary good. Let us be careful in the use of water and make every effort to preserve it for our benefit and that of future generations. Let us make the children aware of the judicious use of water by involving them in water-harvesting (*Jalabandhan*).

**Summer Holidays and Camps:** As April draws near, parents and children plan for holidays. Summer vacation is an excellent time to gather children for faith formation activities and to teach them life skills. I invite the Parish Priests to organise programmes for the Altar Boys/Girls, the Sodalists, and the YCS members. This is a crucial age where they learn soft skills such as relationship-building, teamwork, communication, problem-solving, and leadership. In this year of family, the children from V to XII standard (grades) should be instructed about the skills needed for family life as part of **the remote preparation**. The resources from the Family Service Centre may be availed for the same. Consider vocation awareness and promotion among young people at the same time.

**Invitation to the Priestly Ordination:** Three of our deacons, Dn Avinash Lesly Pais, Dn Robin Joyson Santhumayer, and Dn Lohith Ajay Mascarenhas, will be ordained priests on Thursday, 20 April 2023, at 3 p.m. in the Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Cathedral. I cordially invite all the Priests of the Diocese to join us in this celebration and to pray for them and their families. It is a moment of rejoicing that the Church in Mangalore gets three more young men dedicated to the service of the Lord and his people. My hearty felicitations to the Deacons.

**Ordinations and Final Professions:** This month, we have a few ordinations and profession of final vows of candidates from various religious congregations. They are the members of our diocesan community and of our families. Let us not forget to strengthen them through our prayers to be firm in their resolve and give their best in the service of the Lord. May the Lord accompany them to give their whole self to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

**Holy Week and Easter Time:** We are going to enter into the most holy time of our Christian life as we contemplate on the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Our Lord, “who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification” (Rom 4: 25). St Paul saw this sacrifice of Jesus as the invitation for his own personal self-donation: “I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me” (Gal 2: 20). How wonderful it is to contemplate the whole event taking place for each one of us. Let us enter deeply into the Paschal Mystery and give ourselves anew for the sake of Our Master.

I wish you all a fruitful Holy Week and Joyful Easter.

✠ Peter Paul Saldanha  
**Bishop of Mangalore**

## **VOCATION PROMOTION IN PARISHES AND DEANERIES**

There was a time when the diocese of Mangalore was regarded as the cradle of vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Sadly, vocations are dwindling today. Vocations must be talked about regularly if a “vocation culture” is to take root in parishes and homes. The people need to hear about vocations from priests through homilies, faithful prayers, catechism classes, youth meetings, and discussions. Vocations kept out of sight are out of

mind. Please celebrate Vocation Sunday (Good Shepherd Sunday) on April 30, 2023, in a befitting manner.

April and May are good months to intensify vocation promotion. I request all Parish Priests to identify young boys who have completed their high school, PUC, or graduation and possess good character and qualities, and encourage them to become priests in the diocese of Mangalore. Invite active young boys to consider it. "Be a priest" is a simple, sincere comment that should not be underestimated. Some young people will not consider becoming priests unless asked first. Be courageous! Do the asking!

Each Vicariate, or two or more Vicariates working together, should organise vocation camps. Vicars Forane and the Priest Coordinators of the Vicariate for Youth and Altar Boys should take a keen interest in vocation promotion and assisting the young to consider the priesthood. Please learn to recognise the 'priest' in young boys and encourage them to apply to the Diocese of Mangalore as candidates.

In addition to Parish/Vicariate Vocation Camps, there would be Diocesan Vocation Camps. Parish Priests and Vicars Forane are free to use the Diocesan Vocation Promotor's services for their Vocation Camps, and they are also requested to send eligible boys to Diocesan Vocation Camps organised by him.

- **Bishop of Mangalore**

## **WARNING AGAINST CERTAIN INVESTMENTS**

Please note that shares of Co-operative Banks and some other Co-operative Societies are being mis-sold as eligible Investment u/s 11(5), that they are in the nature of Mutual Funds with 10% return and not traded in Stock exchange. This investment is not permissible under the Income-Tax Act and will be disallowed, resulting in Tax up to 30% on the amount invested + cancellation of 12AB.

- **Procurator**

## MANGALA JYOTHI

### I. Programmes for April:

- 2 : Adult Catechesis - Thodambila Parish
- 2 : Way of the Cross - Bambil Parish
- 5 : Extraordinary Ministers Recollection - Angelore Parish
- 14-15 : New Missal work - Goa
- 20 : Ordination, Liturgy animation - Rosario Cathedral
- 24-25 : YOUCAT Basics work

### II. Information: A. Commission for Liturgy:

1. Liturgical Guidelines for Holy Week/Easter (Refer *ORDO* - pages 91-112).
2. Insignia for extraordinary ministers are available at Mangala Jyothi.
3. Training for the newly selected Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion will be held on 18 June 2023 Sunday from 8.30 a.m. to 2.30 p.m. at Mangala Jyothi. Parish priests are requested to select the candidates well in advance. Please do not ask for volunteers.
4. First Holy Communion is held in some parishes after Easter. Try to organise at least two hours sessions for the parents of the candidates and at least half an hour of adoration.

**Content of the Catechesis:** Importance of Sacraments; Liturgy of the Eucharist and Confession, regular active participation; Family prayer and Bible reading; Responsibility of parents in the Faith Formation of the children; Service aspects in the community.

### B. Commission for Catechetics:

1. **Annual Report Submission:** The parish coordinators need to submit the parish-wise report to the Deanery Priest Coordinator, who will collect those reports, consolidate them and send the final report to Mangala Jyothi by 30 April 2023. The format is already sent to you, or you may visit our website and download the format.

2. **New Catechetical Year 2023:** The new catechetical year begins on June 04, 2023. You can also begin the year on 11 June 2023. More details regarding the inaugural service will be sent to you by 30 April 2023.
3. **Newly Selected Catechists' Training 2023:** The training for the newly selected catechists will be held on 04 June 2023, Sunday, from 8.30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Mangala Jyothi. Therefore, please register the names before 25 May 2023.
4. **Catechists' Coordinators annual training 2023:**
  - a) **For Sunday Catechists Coordinators:** 02 July 2023, Sunday, 8.30 a.m. to 2.30 p.m. (Mass included)
  - b) **For School Coordinators / Value Education Teachers' Representatives:** 03 July 2023, Monday, 9.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. Please register the names before 25 June 2023.

### III. New Arrivals - Books and Other Items:

1. Passion Narratives - for Palm Sunday and Good Friday (English Rs. 200/- & Konkani Rs. 50/-)
2. Value Education books (English) - new series (Std I to PUC)
3. *Samudayachim githam* - Revised edition, Rs. 40/-
4. *Bible Salaval* - Konkani - Introduction to OT, Rs. 100/-
5. Bible Chart - Konkani, Rs. 40/-
6. Responsorial Psalms - English, Rs. 450/-
7. Liturgical/religious articles, host & particles, and candles are available at our stall.

- **Director, Mangala Jyothi**

### SMALL CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES

- 1) Deanery SCC Directors are requested to elect Deanery Coordinators.
- 2) Deanery SCC Directors are requested to elect a Religious Sister Representative to serve on the Diocesan Service Team.
- 3) Deanery SCC Directors are requested to send the names, addresses and mobile numbers of the Deanery Coordinators

and Religious Sister Representatives of the Deanery to the SCC office as soon as possible.

- 4) *Samudayachim githam* book, reprinted with additional hymns, is available in Mangala Jyothi.

**- Rev. Joachim Fernandes, Director, SCC**

## **PROGRAMMES OF CODP**

- 02.04.2023 : Cleanliness drive at Nanthoor
- 03.04.2023 : - L.M. Pinto Hospital Management Committee meet at Badyar  
 - Valedictory program of tailoring course and distribution of certificates at Narampady  
 - Training in water harvesting at Bajpe  
 - Cleanliness drive at Marpunadka
- 05.04.2023 : - CODP Board of Directors meet at Bishop's House  
 - Valedictory program of tailoring course and distribution of certificates at Puttur  
 - Awareness on Cancer and healthy lifestyle at Jyothinagar School, Kavoor
- 06.04.2023 : Awareness on government schemes for self-employment at Fajir
- 11.04.2023 : Awareness on government facilities at Seethangoli
- 14.04.2023 : Training in organic farming and kitchen garden at Nanthoor
- 16.04.2023 : Summer camp for students under Career Advancement Program at CODP-ISD
- 23.04.2023 : Summer camp for students under Career Advancement Program at CODP-ISD
- 18.04.2023 : Awareness on government facilities at Talapady
- 24.04.2023 : - Training in Rights-based Approach at Kappar  
 - Training in water harvesting at Moodbidri  
 - Awareness on government facilities at Shanthipalla



- 23.04.2023 : Celebration of Earth Day at Merlapadav  
 25.04.2023 : Celebration of Earth Day at Kumbla  
 27.04.2023 : Training in Right to Information at Kannattipara  
 30.04.2023 : Summer camp for students under Career Advancement Program at CODP-ISD

**I. Other activities planned for April 2023:** 1. Educare Committee meeting in CODP-ISD. 2. Recording annual progress (APRs) of children sponsored under CSP in CODP-ISD.

## II. Lenten Campaign 2023

As we come to a close of the Lenten Season and prepare ourselves for Easter, I wish you and your parishioners 'A Happy Easter' and blessings of the Risen Saviour in your every endeavour. I take this opportunity to also thank you for encouraging your people to contribute generously towards this year's Lenten cause. **A kind reminder:** Any donations/contribution to CODP above Rs.2,000/- is to be sent by Cheque/Bank transfer/NEFT/RTGS, details of which are as follows:

Account Name	CODP (Regd)
Bank Name	INDIAN OVERSEAS BANK
Branch	PADAVU
Account Number	157201000000015
IFS Code	IOBA0001572

**Please remember to intimate CODP as soon as you send your contribution through any of these modes and furnish an Aadhaar copy to avail 80G Receipt.**

## III. Mangalore Diocese CODP Housing Project

**Ref:** *Inter Nos*, Vol. 17 - No. 3 (March) 2023 - Page 72

With reference to the above subject, Parish Priests are requested to note: The parish committee should select the beneficiary and upload filled soft copy application form on Google form. The filled-in soft copy along with supporting documents, should be emailed to [codpindia@gmail.com](mailto:codpindia@gmail.com) by 30 April 2023.

The applicant should write a hard copy request to the parish priest/committee for house construction/repair works and get it endorsed by the same. The endorsed hard copy should be submitted by the Parish Priest/committee through post to CODP office by 30 April 2023. Please refer plans of the housing project already circulated in WhatsApp.

**- Fr Vincent DSouza, Secretary, CODP**

**ST JOSEPH ENGINEERING COLLEGE  
MANGALURU – 575 028  
An Autonomous Institution**

**COMMON ENTRANCE TEST (CET) – 2023**

Registration and filling of the Application online for CET 2023 will commence from 02.03.2023 to 05.04.2023. The last date to pay the application fees (online) is 07.04.2023.

DATE	DAY	TIMINGS	SUBJECT	MARKS
20.05.2023	Saturday	10.30 a.m. – 11.50 a.m.	Biology	60
		2.30 p.m. – 3.50 p.m.	Mathematics	60
21.05.2023	Sunday	10.30 a.m. – 11.50 a.m.	Physics	60
		2.30 p.m. – 3.50 p.m.	Chemistry	60

As per the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, OCI/PIO candidates will be allowed to apply online for UGCET-2023 after necessary modifications incorporated to the software, and the information in this regard will be published on the KEA Website (<http://kea.kar.nic.in>). Therefore, OCI / PIO students are hereby informed to keep visiting KEA Website for updates.

Please encourage the students of your parish who have the desire to appear for the forthcoming CET-2023 entrance examinations for pursuing Engineering Education at St Joseph Engineering College.

**- Fr Wilfred P. D'Souza, Director – SJEC**

---

## **FATHER MULLER CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS**

### ***ADMISSION FORMALITIES***

Applications for the following courses are hosted on website [www.fathermuller.edu.in](http://www.fathermuller.edu.in). Candidates may apply online. **Last date to apply: 30.04.2023.** Information on the courses, duration, eligibility, and so on is available on the website.

#### **Father Muller College of Allied Health Sciences**

1. Bachelor of Physiotherapy (B.P.T.) - 4½ years including 6 months Internship.
2. B.Sc. Medical Laboratory Technology – 4 years including 1 year Internship.
3. B.Sc. Medical Imaging Technology – 4 years including 1 year Internship.
4. B.Sc. Radiotherapy Technology - 4 years including 1 year Internship.
5. B.Sc. Anaesthesia Technology & Operation Theatre Technology – 4 years incl. Internship.
6. B.Sc. Renal Dialysis Technology - 4 years including 1 year Internship.
7. B.H.A. (Bachelor of Hospital Administration): 3 years duration.
8. B.Sc. Optometry: 4 years, including 1 year Internship.
9. M.Sc. MLT: 2 years course.
10. Masters in Hospital Administration: 2 years course.
11. Master of Physiotherapy: 2 years course.
12. M.Sc. Medical Imaging Technology (M.Sc. MIT): 2 years course.
13. M.Sc. Clinical Psychology: 2 years course.

*(Continued on page 96)*

## Earmarked Collections from Parishes remitted to Bishop's House from December 2022 to March 2023

PARISH	Christmas	Epiphany	Holy Childhood	Maintenance of Holy See
1. Rosario Cathedral	32415	12895	11120	11870
2. Adyapady	2325	891	970	1233
3. Agrar	22525	10492	10863	9951
4. Allipade	21842	6228	6420	6288
5. Ammembal	20650	8000	7095	8150
6. Anegudde	7915	1362	1645	1835
7. Angelore	57300	20160	28846	26144
8. Arva	17973	4440	4146	5495
9. Ashoknagar	46383	13111	15366	19815
10. Badyar	9985	4092	4655	4572
11. Bajal	35892	10927	12578	11840
12. Bajjodi	18150	8811	11093	10700
13. Bajpe	66793	23859	20702	22208
14. Bambil	8540	2420	2737	2505
15. Bannur	15058	7736	7161	7460
16. Bantwal	15751	22580	22890	24770
17. Bejai	90526	15415	25605	46050
18. Bela	18947	14365	17045	14558
19. Belloor	15120	5966	6294	9268
20. Belthangady	41770	14005	16858	16895
21. Belvai	10727	4722	7457	5530
22. Bendur	48860	67630	70260	63224
23. Bola	-	3925	3390	4683
24. Bolkunje	13560	8768	4896	5176
25. Bondel	87770	32605	30920	32465
26. Borimar	16000	4500	4500	4750
27. Bovikana	3700	1380	1912	1688
28. Cascia	27849	9385	10482	11103

<b>PARISH</b>	<b>Christmas</b>	<b>Epiphany</b>	<b>Holy Childhood</b>	<b>Maintenance of Holy See</b>
29. Cordel	185268	41742	55670	57297
30. Derebail	60526	35744	38089	42463
31. Delanthabettu	4533	2020	2320	2275
32. Eliarpadav	9465	3730	4620	4620
33. Fajir	39170	16141	14848	14914
34. Farla	10980	7140	7984	7810
35. Ferar	20230	8016	8302	9125
36. Fermai	10750	7709	5874	5420
37. Gantalkatte	18198	4599	4201	4327
38. Gardady	4605	3050	2520	2750
39. Gurpur	32735	15460	12916	12707
40. Hosabettu	21685	7155	8720	7220
41. Indubettu	4824	1301	1701	2160
42. Jeppu	57575	17961	8741	9600
43. Kadaba	4019	1365	1281	1564
44. Karady	11337	5915	4814	5341
45. Kasargod	7240	3860	4919	4767
46. Kateel	12701	5084	3760	4032
47. Katipalla	26260	11233	12308	16217
48. Kayyar	18220	9848	8334	9170
49. Kelarai	41857	16419	18331	18201
50. Kinnigoli	40195	18311	18307	23197
51. Kirem	37030	13323	14115	13557
52. Kokkada	17232	3710	4022	4424
53. Kollangana	8285	5975	5279	5791
54. Komangala	4118	1010	1021	845
55. Kulur	30075	11580	8035	11385
56. Kumbala	8272	4638	4994	5124
57. Kuppepadav	11731	4352	4486	4429
58. Lawrencenagar	7474	2828	4159	3663
59. Loreto	31627	18506	14359	13812

<b>PARISH</b>	<b>Christmas</b>	<b>Epiphany</b>	<b>Holy Childhood</b>	<b>Maintenance of Holy See</b>
60. Madanthyar	57080	21357	21336	23496
61. Manela	3630	6265	5472	5970
62. Maniyampare	6140	4612	3437	4004
63. Manjeshwar	12710	7824	8868	7412
64. Manjottie	9770	3140	3060	3560
65. Mariashram	9410	3243	4100	5397
66. Maril	20300	5624	6115	6913
67. Milagres	106190	49730	70020	66570
68. Miyapadav	10530	5260	6577	5703
69. Mogarnad	32636	12755	12492	13232
70. Moodbidri- Alangar	19203	9925	9054	8736
71. Moodbidri- Town	47848	15607	15290	15230
72. Mudipu	22140	6487	6940	7820
73. Mukka	14135	4468	4760	4384
74. Mulky	21006	11555	12392	9387
75. Nainadu	10950	8385	5265	5455
76. Nala	3963	2096	2658	2079
77. Narampady	15700	11000	21000	11350
78. Naravi	13055	7048	6775	5293
79. Neermarga	47446	14885	15995	17013
80. Neerude	20505	8653	7578	8151
81. Nellikar	3370	1730	1730	2730
82. Nellyady	5280	2652	3452	2060
83. Niddodi	16480	5730	9913	6727
84. Nidpally	10801	2015	2002	1880
85. Nirkan	10250	3970	4065	4050
86. Nithyadarnagar	17336	5400	6036	7156
87. Omzoor	28243	13500	13329	12732
88. Pakshikere	16052	5866	7140	5532

<b>PARISH</b>	<b>Christmas</b>	<b>Epiphany</b>	<b>Holy Childhood</b>	<b>Maintenance of Holy See</b>
89. Paladka	36320	10500	6750	7937
90. Paldane	25539	10465	13800	13334
91. Panir	33756	19770	12125	12896
92. Panja	4960	4016	1375	4220
93. Pavur	1480	1618	2417	2399
94. Pavur Uliya	705	505	632	610
95. Permannur	55130	28150	28020	26070
96. Permude	15200	5280	5450	6170
97. Peruvai	10679	4414	5617	4958
98. Pezar	13281	3476	3500	3766
99. Puttur	61497	18846	19962	23537
100. Ranipura	28500	9924	9600	10505
101. Salethur	1600	4747	3280	3470
102. Sampaje	3820	1830	1570	1720
103. Sampige	9816	3382	3572	4232
104. Saverapura	4380	2885	3126	2526
105. Shakthinagar	27267	9763	5408	6908
106. Shambur	4246	3765	3502	3413
107. Shirthady	23280	8022	7127	9097
108. Siddakatte	14487	10448	15074	8550
109. Sullia	14844	4160	4480	6502
110. Surathkal	39007	20494	23318	23467
111. Taccode	15560	6740	8404	7064
112. Thannirbavi	9085	1690	2740	2375
113. Thodambila	10339	5482	6413	6849
114. Thokur	7190	4677	4277	3694
115. Ujire	17000	7022	7348	8110
116. Ukkinadka	5914	2781	2730	3118
117. Uppinangady	9150	4650	4670	4735
118. Urwa	101602	31953	33345	28383
119. Valencia	64224	32747	31379	35852
120. Vamadapadav	11104	8054	4320	4090

121. Vamanjoor	59941	18172	17704	19741
122. Venur	33928	2579	5766	6608
123. Vittal	18994	8185	8533	9183
124. Vorkady	22624	20096	11448	12164
125. Anthonykatte	5671	1749	3480	1643
126. Bellare	5100	1230	2158	2585
127. Kodialbail Chapel	5818	4770	2580	5260

**Note:** The Parish Priest are requested to remit the earmarked collections regularly and as and when the collection is made.

**- Procurator**

## **FATHER MULLER CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS**

*(Continued from page 91)*

Applications for the following courses are hosted on website [www.fathermuller.edu.in](http://www.fathermuller.edu.in). Candidates may apply online. **Last date to apply: 30.04.2023.** Information on the courses, duration, eligibility, and so on is available on website.

### **Father Muller College (Speech & Hearing)**

1. Bachelor of Audiology & Speech Language Pathology (B.ASLP) – 4 years, including a one-year internship
2. M.Sc. (Aud) and M.Sc. (SLP) - 2 year Post Graduate programme with 4 semesters.

### **Father Muller College of Nursing**

1. B.Sc. Nursing; 2. M.Sc. Nursing; 3. Post Basic B.Sc. Nursing.

### **Father Muller Nursing College Thumbay**

1. B.Sc. Nursing: Eligibility: PUC with Physics, Chemistry, and Biology

**- Rev. Fr Richard Coelho, Director**



---

## **REFLECTIONS ON PRIESTS' TRANSFERS AND PASTORAL ASSIGNMENTS**

In the Diocese of Mangalore, priests' transfers and assignments typically take place in May and June. Leaving one place or office and assuming a new pastoral assignment in another place involves the sadness of parting and the freshness of new beginnings for priests and parishioners. As a priest grows very connected to his parishioners, they become his family. When a good priest leaves the parish, he bequeaths a constructive legacy of pastoral, educational and ministerial progress. He attracts vocations to the priesthood and religious life. It is hard to part with someone who gave sterling service to the parish. This process brings about a lot of change and readjustment to the lives of our priests and faithful.

Though good for the parish and the priest himself, the transfer process is a kind of death for most priests. They have established their roots in the parish for two, three, five, and six years. They have baptised the young, involved in their catechetical and faith formation, sacramental preparations and celebrations at every stage of their life, visited the families and prayed with them, comforted the sick with anointing, buried their dear departed, absolved the sins of the faithful, administered the temporal goods of the parish, and, above all else, offered the Eucharist – the source and summit of Christian life. With the transfer, the role ceases.

We know that transferring priests is nothing new in the Catholic Church. It is one of the most immediate ways for the Church to ensure that its ministries are solely focused on Jesus Christ and not on a local cult of personality that has unwittingly developed around the departing priest. It is a powerful check to prevent or break up any personality cult or, at the very least, to correct a parish's unhealthy reliance on any one priest. This action serves as a reminder that, while each of us is important to the Church, none of us is indispensable to any particular ministry.

Rev. Fr Joe Mallia, a Franciscan capuchin priest from Malta, spent 13 years of his ministry in India's Jhansi diocese and worked closely with Mother Teresa's Sisters. He frequently met Mother Teresa and worked alongside her and the Sisters to help the poorest of the poor. But he did not approve of Mother Teresa's overnight transfer and exchange of an entire community of Sisters from one mission station to another. When this happened repeatedly, he complained to Mother Teresa, saying that the transfers disrupted the work in the mission areas. Mother Teresa told him: "Dear Father, the work in the mission is God's work. It cannot be disrupted, as He knows what to be done". Fr Mallia's experience should provide spiritual solace and maturity to priests and laypeople who view the transfer as a loss or a disruption. Parish ministry is God's work, and God knows what must be done.

Transfers and new assignments are a necessary part of the ministry and life of priests. Some priests have special talents and a track record of particular effectiveness in parishes that argue for moving them to parishes that may need those talents. Other priests may not be a good fit for a parish and should be replaced. Some others might want or need a change of pace (speed) and environment. Whatever the transfer motive, like the Son of Man who had no place to lay his head (a permanent abode), the priest is called to minister to whomever the Bishop needs him to go.

Transfers necessitate a sacrifice on the part of many connected with it. When priests are transferred, it is not unusual for a handful of parishioners to be disappointed with the Bishop's decision. But many would be very happy about the changes. While it cannot be denied that decisions of transfer and assignments are not easy for the Bishop, it can be safely affirmed that they are not made arbitrarily and suffer from favouritism.

Parish Priests in our diocese serve a six-year term, while Assistant Parish Priests normally serve two years. In addition, some priests hold other positions with terms of office specified in the Code of Canon Law or at the discretion of the Bishop. The term of office

for those serving in institutions will not exceed ten years in one location. In no case will a priest remain in the same position forever.

Every year around February, the Bishop constitutes a team of priests in consultation with the College of Consultors to prepare a preliminary list of pastoral assignments for priests on transfer. After receiving this list, the Bishop contacts the priests on transfer and discusses the proposed assignments. Rarely does a priest decline his proposed assignment and request an alternate option if one is available. On the contrary, almost all priests are very generous in accepting the proposed assignment and assume the entrusted ministry with obedience and goodwill, considering it God's will. Lastly, the final list - the result of a synodal process - is compiled to issue the official appointment orders.

The Bishop is responsible for determining how and where priests can serve best. When a priest is ordained, he is asked by the Bishop, "Do you promise respect and obedience to me (the Bishop) and my successors?" to which he responds, "I do." The Bishop believes and acts on that promise.

The Code of Canon Law gives the Bishop the right to freely appoint priests to offices or give them pastoral assignments (can. 147), considering their capacity, qualities and qualifications. Furthermore, no law prevents him from appointing his classmates or relatives to the so-called 'high' offices or giving mutual transfers to priests, provided the priests have the requisite qualities (can. 149), and the Bishop has no personal interest or favouritism in the appointments made. However, it places some restrictions regarding specific appointments: for example, a Bishop cannot appoint persons related to him up to the fourth degree of consanguinity as Vicar General, Episcopal Vicar (can. 478 §2). Furthermore, persons related to the Bishop up to the fourth degree of consanguinity and affinity cannot be Financial Administrators or members of the Diocesan Finance Council (can. 492 §3).

Pope Francis met with seminarians from the Sicilian coastal city of Agrigento on November 24, 2018. He told them the "mission"

is something the Spirit urges us to do: *go out*. This “going out” has an apostolic horizon and pastoral bearing. The transfer is an apostolic journey – going where the Lord wants the priest to go. The Bishop is the one who says on behalf of God: ‘This is the way’. You can go to the Bishop and say: ‘I feel this’, and he will discern and decide. That is it. One cannot live priesthood without a mission. But ultimately, the Bishop gives the mission. He does not just give a task - ‘handle this parish’, as a bank manager gives tasks to his employees; the Bishop gives a mission: ‘Sanctify those people, bring Christ to those people’.

On accepting the Bishop’s decision, the priest faces another topic in the line of transfer: *getting ready* – psychologically, spiritually, administratively and above all, pastorally. The priest on transfer prepares himself and the parish/institution for the transition in leadership. He has to make it convenient for the incoming Parish Priest by completing all the projects, paying bills, and maintaining all the accounts up-to-date, keeping ready all the documentation regarding the sacramental and other administrative areas: registers, accounts, inventories, property records, investments, files, family records and so on. The Checklist of Temporal Administration of Parish/Institution would help him in this matter, and he should submit a completed copy of this Checklist to the Bishop within the prescribed time. All this contributes to a smooth transmission and assists the newly appointed Parish Priest to begin well.

With the announcement of the transfer, some in the Parish Pastoral Council think of organising farewell functions, giving gifts to the outgoing priest, and accompanying him to the new place of ministry. Of course, as beneficiaries of his ministry, the faithful have to express their appreciation and thanks, which will surely encourage the priest in his ministry. But the outgoing priest should not convert the occasion to make a ‘show off’, gain mileage and seek personal advantage and glamour. Instead, he should remember what Jesus told his disciples: “When you have done everything that was assigned and commanded you, say, ‘We are unworthy servants [undeserving of praise or a reward, for we have not

gone beyond our obligation]; we have merely done what we ought to do'." (Lk 17:10). The journey of transfer (movement) from one place to another should be seen as a "missionary journey". Therefore, it should not be burdened by the many farewell programmes, garlands and gifts, and motorcade escorts.

The transfer is not a time to burden the people and to get oneself burdened with 'more' praise and 'offerings'. Therefore, consider leaving at the altar all the 'praise' and the 'offerings' and travel light on this missionary journey, adhering to the mandate of Jesus in Matthew 10:9-10-12-15. *The Message: The Bible in Contemporary Language* paraphrases it: "Don't think you have to put on a fund-raising campaign before you start. You don't need a lot of equipment. You are the equipment, and all you need to keep that going is three meals a day. Travel light. "When you enter a town or village [*parish*], don't insist on staying in [*a presbytery which is like*] a luxury inn. Get a modest place ... and be content there until you leave. "When you [*do family visits*] knock on a door, be courteous in your greeting. If they welcome you, be gentle in your conversation. If they [*parishioners*] don't welcome you, quietly withdraw. Don't make a scene. Shrug your shoulders and be on your way [*to meet the Bishop*]." (Note that the words within square brackets are supplied).

A priest should have the "attitude of a servant" even when he moves from one place to another on pastoral assignment. Jesus, who came to serve than to be served, demands it. The great missionary St Paul identified himself as "a servant of God" (2 Cor 6:4), "a servant of Jesus Christ" (Phil 1:1), "a servant of the Gospel" (Col 1:23), and "a servant of the Church" (Col 1:24-25). No servant is welcomed with garlands and fanfare and given a farewell with ceremonial dinners and contributions. He is merely commanded to "go and work in the vineyard" (Mt 20:4).

Accompanying the priest on his transfer to his new parish/ministry should be modest and exemplary. A few select members of the Parish Pastoral Council accompanying their outgoing priest appears

good enough for a servant leader, while it is a countersign to ferry all and sundry by bus-loads and motorcades to accompany a “servant” of Jesus, a “servant” of his Gospel and the Church. That fancy may be alright for a political roadshow, for an outing or a procession of “*horekanike*”!

The most important days in the life of a priest are not just the day of his transfer and the day he is installed in office but the days and years that come between these two moments. The act of “transfer” and “assignment” belongs to the Bishop, but the life and ministry between these solemn moments solely belong to the priest, and it becomes his contribution to the Church, and at times, even righting the wrong of the Bishop’s decision regarding the appropriateness of the transfer or assignment. God can write straight on a crooked line when priests give Jesus to others and bring people to Jesus through their ministry.

Priests come in a wide range of sizes and shapes, as well as colours and perspectives. Every priest brings to ministry a unique set of gifts and talents. He is not the identical twin of his predecessor. As a result, it is not fair to expect him to lead similarly. Each priest expands on the accomplishments of his predecessors and helps the parish grow in new ways. The predecessor should not interfere in his successor’s ministry through his coterie of former parish friends. The successor should refrain from making disparaging comments about his predecessor’s administration and decisions with people, as this would be an assault on the good name and reputation.

The priest acts “in the person of Christ” and is called to have the sanctity of the one he represents. As a result, it hurts more when a priest’s words are uncharitable, his behaviour is selfish, his actions are neglectful, or he uses his position for personal gain. Because his ministry is sacred, the priest is called to grow in personal holiness by performing his duties with generosity and enthusiasm. The parish thrives when the priest and parishioners collaborate well, are patient, listen to one another, and speak respectfully.

*Instead of a Conclusion:* A Jesuit priest-professor teaching a class on Ignatian Spirituality at the Gregorian University in Rome, asked the licentiate students: “What is the difference between a Jesuit Priest who obviously is Religious and a Diocesan Priest who obviously isn’t Religious?” Some silence followed. Looking around and seeing no hand up, one licentiate student, a Diocesan Priest, timidly raised his right hand. The professor nodded in affirmation, and the priest confidently answered aloud: “The difference is clear: A Jesuit Priest *brings* Jesus to the people, while a Diocesan Priest *takes* the people to Jesus”. Some light laughter broke the silence in the classroom. Then, the puzzled professor smiled and said: “Please, let’s proceed”.

**- Rev. Victor G. D’Souza**  
*Chancellor*

## EASTER REFLECTIONS

We spend forty days preparing for Easter and then celebrate Easter as if it is a single day. Easter is not just a single day’s celebration. It’s a joy that can’t be contained in just a moment. We celebrate the Easter Octave (eight days). In the early Church, the newly baptised wore their white baptismal garments throughout this week, and after Christians gained power, this whole week was a legal holiday in many parts of the Roman Empire.

In the Baroque period, the liturgy used to include the *risus paschalis*, the Easter laughter. The Easter homily had to contain a story that made people laugh so that the church resounded with joyful laughter. Of course, that may be a somewhat superficial form of Christian joy. But is there not something very beautiful and appropriate about laughter becoming a liturgical symbol? (Pope Benedict XVI).

## DIAMOND BIRTHDAY

Rev. Fr Faustine Lucas Lobo, Parish Priest, Immaculate Conception Church, Kinnigoli, on 22.04.2023.

*May this Birthday be just the beginning of many delightful and wonderful things the Lord has in store for you.*

## **SILVER JUBILEE OF PRIESTHOOD**

20.04.2023

1. Rev. Fr Clary A. D Souza, Gulbarga Diocese
2. Rev. Fr Ivan J. Santhosh D Souza, Gulbarga Diocese
3. Rev. Fr Joseph J. Lobo, New York, USA

23.04.2023

1. Rev. Fr Abel Lobo, Parish Priest, Our Lady -Virgin of the Poor, Uppinangady
2. Rev. Fr Stany Monteiro, Chaplain, Olavina Halli, Panir
3. Rev. Fr Walter D Souza, Parish Priest, Our Lady of the Rosary, Moodbidri-Alangar

*God richly bless you on your Silver Jubilee of Priestly Ordination for your dedicated service, and may continued blessings be upon you today and in the years ahead.*

---

---

Printed by Rev. Fr Lawrence Ronald D'Souza  
Published by Rev. Fr Henry Sequeira  
owned by Most Rev. Dr. Aloysius Paul D'Souza, Bishop of Mangalore  
and printed at Codialbail Press, Bondel, Mangalore – 575 008 and published  
at Bishop's House, Mangalore – 575 003. Editor : Rev. Fr Henry Sequeira

**Annual Subscription Rs. 60/-**